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This preliminary amendment has amended claim 1 and has added new claims 33-51. Claims 1 and 33-51 are therefore currently pending in this application. The amendment and these new claims have been submitted to further refine the scope of the invention and not for narrowing the claims over any known prior art. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

All claims being patentable, the Examiner is provide Applicant with an early Notice of Allowance. If in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (650) 838-4443.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: September 9, 2002

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Title:

"Method and Apparatus for the Production, Delivery, and Receipt of [Enhanced] Audiovisual E-Mail"

In the Specification:

The present application relates to applications entitled "System, Method and Article of Manufacture for Preventing the Proliferation of Unwanted Electronic Messages", Application No. 09/401,028, filed September 21, 1999; "Method and Article of Manufacture for a Sub-Browser Application Program Stored in an Electronic Message", Application No. 09/400,708, filed September 21, 1999; "Method and Article of Manufacture for Delaying Advertisement Execution in a Geometric Electronic Media Distribution Framework", Application No. 09/400,711, filed September 21, 1999; "Textual Hyperlink Capable of Inputting Text as a Parameter While Executing an Associated Link", Application Serial No. 09/400,712, filed September 21, 1999; "Electronic Message Payload For Interfacing With Text Contained in The Message", Application Serial No. 09/400,781, filed September 21, 1999, and "Method and Apparatus for the Production, Deliver, and Receipt of Enhanced E-Mail", Application No. 09/401,026, filed September 21, 1999, and is now U.S. Patent No. 6,360,221 B1, issued March 19, 2002, which were filed concurrently herewith and are incorporated herein in their entirety.

In the Claims:

1. (once amended) A method for providing an audiovisual e-mail system comprising:

providing a server connected to a network;

inputting a message and an audiovisual enhancement which is associated with said message from a sender into said server, said message to be sent as an e-mail to at least one recipient [mail box] on said network;

[enhancing] associating said [e-mail] message with a self-executing programmable enhancement operative to stream said audiovisual enhancement, at least in part, from said server over said network and to display said audiovisual enhancement in conjunction with said message; and

[delivering] sending said e-mail over said network to said at least one recipient[mail box].

Please cancel claims 1-32 without prejudice.

Please add the following claims:

33. (new) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said audiovisual enhancement includes both audio and visual components.

34. (new) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said audiovisual enhancement includes only an audio component.

35. (new) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said audiovisual enhancement includes only a visual component.

36. (new) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said audiovisual enhancement includes a streaming video displayed within a window of a recipient's machine.

37. (new) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said video is developed on a sender's machine, and is transmitted to said server over said network.

38. (new) A method as recited in claim 37 wherein said network includes a TCP/IP network.

39. (new) A method as recited in claim 38 wherein said network includes the Internet.

40. (new) Computer program segments embodied in computer readable media to provide an audiovisual e-mail system comprising:

a code segment transmitting over a network to a server an audiovisual enhancement which is associated with a message from a sender, said message to be sent as an e-mail to at least one recipient on said network; and

a code segment associating said said message with a self-executing code segment operative to stream said audiovisual enhancement, at least in part, from said server over said network and to display said audiovisual enhancement in conjunction with said message upon the selection of said message by said at least one recipient.

41. (new) Computer program segments embodied in computer readable media to provide an audiovisual e-mail system as recited in claim 40 wherein said audiovisual enhancement includes both audio and visual components.

42. (new) Computer program segments embodied in computer readable media to provide an audiovisual e-mail system as recited in claim 40 wherein said audiovisual enhancement includes only an audio component.

43. (new) Computer program segments embodied in computer readable media to provide an audiovisual e-mail system as recited in claim 40 wherein said audiovisual enhancement includes only a visual component.

44. (new) Computer program segments embodied in computer readable media to provide an audiovisual e-mail system as recited in claim 40 wherein said audiovisual enhancement includes a streaming video displayed within a window of said recipient's machine.

45. (new) Computer program segments embodied in computer readable media to provide an audiovisual e-mail system as recited in claim 40 wherein said audiovisual enhancement is developed on a sender's machine.

46. (new) An audiovisual e-mail system comprising:

means transmitting over a network to a server from a sender machine an audiovisual enhancement which is associated with a message from said sender, said message to be sent as an e-mail to at least one recipient on said network; and

means associating said said message with a self-executing program operative to stream said audiovisual enhancement, at least in part, from said server over said network and to display said audiovisual enhancement in conjunction with said message on a recipient machine upon the selection of said message by said at least one recipient.

47. (new) An audiovisual e-mail system as recited in claim 46 wherein said audiovisual enhancement includes both audio and visual components.

48. (new) An audiovisual e-mail system as recited in claim 46 wherein said audiovisual enhancement includes only an audio component.

49. (new) An audiovisual e-mail system as recited in claim 46 wherein said audiovisual enhancement includes only a visual component.

50. (new) An audiovisual e-mail system as recited in claim 46 wherein said audiovisual enhancement includes a streaming video displayed within a window of said recipient's machine.

51. (new) An audiovisual e-mail system as recited in claim 46 wherein said audiovisual enhancement is developed on said sender's machine.